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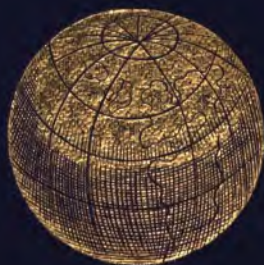
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FIRST STEPS IN GEOGRAPHY



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FIRST STEPS
IN
GEOGRAPHY,

For the Use of Beginners,

CORRECTED TO THE PRESENT YEAR

BY
D. F. C.

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P R E F A C E.

THE author has frequently been asked to recommend a good, simple, Geography, for the use of beginners ; one, in fact, which, while affording all necessary information on the subject, would still be written in a style suitable to the understanding of the young ; but, as he has never been fortunate enough to meet with such a work himself, he has hitherto not been in a position to comply with these requests. Latterly, the subject has been again brought to his notice, and he has been induced to write the following pages, which he now offers to the public, trusting that parents and teachers will find in this little book a sort of stepping-stone between the first catechisms on Geography and those very advanced and abstruse works, which are, but too often, quite incomprehensible to the unformed mind.

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FIRST STEPS IN GEOGRAPHY.

CHAPTER I.

DEFINITIONS.*

The word Geography means a description of the surface of the earth.

The surface of the earth is divided into land and water ; but there is nearly twice as much water as land.

The earth is round, and something like an orange in shape ; it is often called a globe, or sphere ; and these words both mean a round, solid ball.

The word Globe is also commonly used when speaking of a model of the earth's surface.

A Map is a picture of part of the surface of the globe.

An Atlas is a number of maps bound up together.

In almost every map the top is the North, the bottom the South, the right hand side the East, and the left hand side the West.

The Map of the World is often divided into two parts, each containing half the globe, or sphere, which is therefore called a hemisphere.

The Eastern Hemisphere contains the whole of

* The student should be supplied with an atlas before learning these definitions.

•

the Old World, and also Australia, and some islands which belong to the New World.

The Western Hemisphere contains North and South America, and the remainder of the Polynesian Islands.

The Old World consists of those countries which have been known to mankind in general for many ages.

The New World consists of those countries which have been discovered since Christopher Columbus first sailed to America, during the reign of Henry the Seventh of England.

The Old World is divided into three parts, which were formerly called "quarters of the world," but are now termed "great divisions;" they are named Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The New World is also parted into three great divisions, namely, America, Australasia, and Polynesia, or "the many islands" in the Pacific Ocean.

A Continent is a very large tract of land; like the continent of Europe, for instance.

An Island is a piece of land, smaller than a continent, entirely surrounded by water. Great Britain and Ireland are both islands.

A Peninsula is a tract of land nearly surrounded by water; like the kingdom of Italy.

An Isthmus is a narrow neck of land which joins two large tracts of land together; the Isthmus of

.

Suez, and the Isthmus of Panama in America, may both be taken for examples.

A Cape, or Headland, is a piece of land running out into the sea ; like the Cape of Good Hope, and Cape Horn.

A cape is sometimes called a Promontory, when the land is high and the cliffs steep.

A Plain is a tract of flat land.

When a plain is very much higher than the level of the sea it is called a Table Land, or Plateau.

A Mountain is a very high hill.

A chain of mountains means a row of very high hills.

A Valley is the hollow space between two hills.

An Ocean is a large tract of salt water.

There are five large oceans marked on the globe, namely, the Northern or Arctic Ocean, the Southern or Antarctic Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean.

A Sea is a large piece of water, but it is smaller than an ocean ; like the Mediterranean Sea, for instance.

A Gulf is a piece of water nearly surrounded by land ; like the Persian Gulf.

A Bay is a piece of water only partly surrounded by land ; like the Bay of Biscay.

A Harbour, or Port, is a small gulf, or creek, fit for ships to anchor in.

A Strait is a narrow strip of water which joins

two oceans, or seas, together. The Gibraltar Strait, for instance, connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.

A Channel is a large strait ; like the English Channel.

A River is a stream of water, which runs for some distance inland, before flowing into a sea or lake.

In sailing *down* a river, the right hand side is called the right bank, and the left hand side the left bank.

The mouth of a river is where it falls into the sea.

A Lake is a piece of water quite surrounded by land, except where streams flow in or out of it.

A Pond is a small lake.

N.B.—Other definitions will be found at page 43, which can be learnt by the student when convenient.

CHAPTER II.

EUROPE.

Europe is the smallest of the three great divisions of the Old World, but it is also the most important of them, on account of the courage, skill, and wealth of its inhabitants. It is bounded on the North by the Northern Ocean ; on the South by the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea ; on the East by

the Oural Mountains and the Caspian Sea ; and on the West by the Atlantic Ocean. It is divided into a great many separate countries, some of which are very powerful.

The following list gives the names of the principal states in Europe, and their capital cities.

COUNTRIES.	CAPITALS.
THE BRITISH ISLES	London.
FRANCE	Paris.
SPAIN	Madrid.
PORTUGAL	Lisbon.
SWITZERLAND	Berne.
ITALY.....	Florence.
AUSTRIA	Vienna.
PRUSSIA	Berlin.
SAXONY	Dresden.
BAVARIA	Munich.
WURTEMBERG	Stuttgart.
BADEN	Carlsruhe.
HANOVER	Hanover.
HOLLAND	The Hague.
BELGIUM	Brussels.
DENMARK	Copenhagen.
SWEDEN AND NORWAY	Stockholm.
RUSSIA	St. Petersburg.
GREECE	Athens.
TURKEY.....	Constantinople.

The five Great Powers of Europe are England, France, Russia, Austria, and Prussia.

The principal islands in Europe are, the British Isles, Iceland, the Faroe Isles, and the Azores, in the Atlantic Ocean ; Spitzbergen, Nova Zembla, and

the Lofoden Isles, in the Arctic Ocean ; and the following islands in the Mediterranean Sea, namely, the Baleares, of which Majorca, Minorca, and Iviça are the chief ; Corsica ; Sardinia ; Sicily ; Malta ; the Ionian Islands, including Corfu, Cephalonia, and Zante ; Candia and the Greek Archipelago.

Nearly two thirds of the whole surface of Europe are one great plain, but mountains are found in the west and south, and also in Norway.

The principal chains of mountains are the Scandinavian Mountains in Norway and Sweden ; the Alps on the Northern border of Italy ; the Pyrenees between France and Spain ; the Jura Mountains between France and Switzerland ; the Sierra Nevada, and the Sierra Morena in the South of Spain ; the Apennines in Italy ; the Carpathians between Austria and Turkey ; and the Caucasus, a chain which divides Europe from Asia.

The chief rivers of Europe are the Danube, which rises in the Black Forest, and falls into the Black Sea ; the Dneister, which rises in the Carpathians, and the Dnieper, which rises in Eastern Russia, both of which also run into the Black Sea ; the Don, rising in the middle of Russia, and flowing into the Sea of Azov ; the Volga, which also rises in central Russia, and falls into the Caspian Sea ; the Vistula, rising in the Carpathian Mountains, and falling into the Baltic Sea ; the Elbe, which rises in Bohemia,

and flows into the North Sea ; the Rhine, which also falls into the North Sea after flowing from the Alps ; and the Rhone, which rises in the Alps, and falls into the Mediterranean Sea.

The principal lakes of Europe are Lakes Ladoga and Onega, in Russia ; the Lake of Geneva, and some others, in Switzerland ; the Lakes of Como, di Garda, and Maggiore, in Italy ; and a few lakes in Norway and Sweden.

The religion of Europe is the Christian religion, including the English Protestant Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Greek Church, and many Protestant sects of different denominations.

CHAPTER III.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.—ENGLAND.

It has been said that the sun never sets on the Queen of England's dominions, and this saying can not be very far from true, when we consider the vast tracts of land Her Majesty rules over in Asia, in Africa, in America, and in Australasia ; besides her possessions in Europe, and the British Isles.

These vast dominions are all included in what is called the British Empire, but the islands of Great Britain and Ireland alone form the United Kingdom.

The Island of Great Britain is the largest in Europe, and is divided into the kingdoms of England and Scotland, and the Principality of

Wales. It is 600 miles long, and more than 300 miles broad on the southern coast, when measured from the Land's End in Cornwall to the South Foreland in Kent. England and Wales are bounded on the North by the Cheviot Hills, which divide the former from Scotland; on the East by the North Sea; on the South by the English Channel; and on the West by the Irish Channel.

The chief islands belonging to England and Wales are:—the Isle of Man; the Isle of Anglesey; the Scilly Islands; the Channel Islands, namely, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark; the Isle of Wight, and Holy Island.

The principal lakes in England are the Windermere, the Ulleswater, and the Derwentwater lakes, in Westmoreland and Cumberland.

The central and eastern parts of England are rather flat; but the north-western portion of England, and the greater part of Wales, are mountainous. The chief mountains are the Pennine Range, and the mountains in Cumberland, of which Scafell is the highest in England, being more than 3000 feet high. In Wales, the most famous mountains are Snowdon, which is 3500 feet high, Cader Idris, and Plynlimmon.

The principal rivers in England and Wales are the Thames, the Humber, the Severn, the Mersey, the Wye, and the Usk.

One of the most noted plains in England is Salisbury Plain.

England and Wales are very rich in minerals. Coal is found in great quantities in Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Staffordshire, South Wales, and elsewhere. Iron, lead, and zinc are generally found where there is coal. Copper, tin, lead, and potter's clay are produced in Devonshire and Cornwall. Copper, slate, and iron are found in Cumberland and Anglesey. Salt is found in Cheshire and Worcestershire, and slate in North Wales.

England is also rich in building stone and clay suitable for bricks.

London is the capital of England, and is the largest city in the world; it contains about three million inhabitants.

The largest towns in England, next to London, are, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, Bradford, Wolverhampton, and Bristol.

The greatest trading ports are, London, Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Southampton.

The chief royal dockyards and ports for the Navy are Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Chatham.

The greatest arsenal is Woolwich.

The Cinque Ports, or "five ports," as appointed by Edward the Confessor, for the protection of England from Danish pirates, by means of his fleet

which was stationed in them, are Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Hastings.

The most famous manufacturing towns in England are, Manchester, noted for cotton goods ; Leeds, for woollen goods ; Birmingham, for iron and brass ware ; Sheffield, for cutlery and plated goods ; Nottingham, for its lace and stocking trade ; Worcester, and Woodstock, for gloves ; and Northampton for shoes.

Merthyr Tydvil in Wales is noted for its iron works.

The county of Staffordshire is famous for its potteries ; Cheshire, for cheese ; Herefordshire, for cider ; Kent, for hops ; and Hertfordshire, for malt.

The chief universities in England are those of Cambridge and Oxford.

The population of England and Wales is about twenty-one millions ; that of Scotland is above three millions ; and that of Ireland and other islands not included in the English census, is nearly six millions.

The United Kingdom may be said, therefore, to contain about thirty million inhabitants.

England is divided into forty counties, viz :—

COUNTIES.

CHIEF TOWNS.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. NORTHUMBERLAND | Newcastle and Alnwick. |
| 2. CUMBERLAND | Carlisle. |
| 3. DURHAM | Durham and Sunderland. |
| 4. WESTMORELAND | Appleby and Kendal. |
| 5. YORKSHIRE | York, Leeds, and Hull. |
| 6. LANCASHIRE | Lancaster, Manchester, & Liverpool |

COUNTIES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
7. CHESHIRE	Chester and Stockport,
8. DERBYSHIRE	Derby and Buxton.
9. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	Nottingham.
10. LINCOLNSHIRE	Lincoln and Boston,
11. LEICESTERSHIRE	Leicester and Melton.
12. RUTLANDSHIRE	Oakham.
13. WARWICKSHIRE.....	Warwick, Coventry, & Leamington
14. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	Northampton.
15. SHROPSHIRE	Shrewsbury.
16. STAFFORDSHIRE.....	Stafford and Wolverhampton.
17. HEREFORDSHIRE.....	Hereford
18. WORCESTERSHIRE	Worcester and Malvern.
19. GLOUCESTERSHIRE.....	Gloucester, Bristol, & Cheltenham.
20. MONMOUTHSHIRE	Monmouth and Newport.
21. OXFORDSHIRE.....	Oxford and Woodstock.
22. BERKSHIRE.....	Reading and Windsor.
23. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	Aylesbury.
24. CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Cambridge and Newmarket.
25. HUNTINGDONSHIRE	Huntingdon.
26. BEDFORDSHIRE	Bedford and Dunstable.
27. NORFOLK	Norwich and Yarmouth.
28. SUFFOLK	Ipswich.
29. MIDDLESEX	London.
30. HERTFORDSHIRE	Hertford and St. Albans.
31. ESSEX.....	Chelmsford and Colchester.
32. SURREY	Guildford, Richmond, & Kingston.
33. KENT	Maidstone, Canterbury, Chatham, and Dover.
34. SUSSEX	Lewes, Brighton, and Chichester.
35. HAMPSHIRE.....	Winchester, Portsmouth, and
36. WILTSHIRE	Salisbury. [Southampton.
37. DORSETSHIRE	Dorchester and Weymouth.
38. SOMERSETSHIRE	Taunton and Bath.
39. DEVONSHIRE	Exeter, Plymouth, & Devonport.
40. CORNWALL.....	Bodmin and Falmouth.

Wales is divided into Twelve Counties, namely :

COUNTIES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. CAERNARVONSHIRE	Caernarvon and Bangor.
2. DENBIGHSHIRE	Denbigh.
3. FLINTSHIRE	Mold.
4. MERIONETHSHIRE	Dolgelly
5. ANGLESEA	Beaumaris and Holyhead.
6. MONTGOMERYSHIRE	Montgomery.
7. CARDIGANSHIRE	Cardigan.
8. RADNORSHIRE	New Radnor.
9. PEMBROKESHIRE	Pembroke and Haverfordwest.
10. CAERMARTHENSHIRE	Caermarthen.
11. GLAMORGANSHIRE	Cardiff, Swansea, and Merthyr.
12. BRECKNOCKSHIRE	Brecon. [Tydvil.

CHAPTER IV.

SCOTLAND.

The northern division of Great Britain is called Scotland. It is bounded on the North and East by the North Sea ; on the South by the Cheviot Hills, which separate it from England ; and on the West by the Irish Channel and the Atlantic Ocean

Scotland was formerly a kingdom by itself, but it became united to England when James the Sixth of Scotland succeeded Queen Elizabeth, as James the First of England.

Scotland, like Wales, is a hilly country. Its principal mountains are the Ben More Mountains in the north ; the Cheviot Hills in the south ; and the Grampian Mountains in the centre. Ben Nevis and

Ben Mac Dhui, two of the Grampians, are the highest mountains in Great Britain, being more than 4000 feet high.

The chief lakes in Scotland are, Loch Lomond, Loch Awe, Loch Tay, and Loch Ness.

The principal islands are, the Hebrides, or Western Islands, which are divided into the Eastern and Western Hebrides by the Minch Channel. The chief of the Western Hebrides are, Lewis, Harris, and the North and South Uist; those of the Eastern Hebrides are, Skye, Mull, Iona, Jura, and Isla. Near to Isla, in the Frith of Clyde, are the islands of Bute and Arran; and to the north of Scotland are the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands.

The chief rivers of Scotland are the Clyde, the Forth, the Tay, the Tweed, the Spey and the Dee.

The richest and most populous part of Scotland is situated between the Frith of Clyde and the Frith of Forth. The northern parts, or highlands, are but little cultivated, but the moors in the north abound with grouse and other game; and large sums are paid every year by sportsmen for the right of shooting over these barren hills.

The counties of Stirling, Edinburgh, Lanark, and Renfrew, produce coal and iron; coal is also found in Fife; and Aberdeen is famous for its granite.

The beautiful city of Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland.

The chief trading ports of Scotland are :—Leith, which is situated only two miles from Edinburgh ; Glasgow and Greenock, on the Clyde ; Dundee, and Aberdeen.

The city of Glasgow is famous for its cotton manufactures, its steam-vessels, and its trade ; Paisley is noted for its silk and shawl manufactures ; and Carron, near Falkirk, for its iron foundry.

Scotland is divided into thirty-three counties.

COUNTIES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. ORKNEY AND SHETLAND	Kirkwall.
2. CAITHNESS.....	Wick.
3. SUTHERLAND	Dornoch.
5. ROSS WITH CROMARTY	Dingwall.
6. NAIRN	Nairn.
7. ELGIN	Elgin.
8. BANFF	Banff.
9. KINCARDINE	Stonehaven.
10. INVERNESS	Inverness.
11. ABERDEEN	Aberdeen.
12. FORFAR	Forfar and Dundee.
13. PERTH	Perth.
14. FIFE	Cupar.
15. KINROSS.....	Kinross.
16. CLACKMANNAN	Clackmannan.
17. STIRLING	Stirling.
18. DUMBARTON	Dumbarton.
19. ARGYLSHIRE	Inverary.
20. BUTE AND ARRAN.....	Rothsay.
21. HADDINGTON	Haddington and Dunbar.
22. BERWICK	Greenlaw and Dunse.
23. EDINBURGH	Edinburgh and Leith.
24. LINLITHGOW	Linlithgow.

COUNTIES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
25. RENFREW	Renfrew, Greenock, and Paisley.
26. LANARK	Old Lanark and Glasgow.
27. PEEBLES	Peebles.
28. SELKIRK	Selkirk.
29. ROXBURGH	Jedburgh and Melrose.
30. DUMFRIES	Dumfries.
31. KIRKCUDBRIGHT	Kircudbright.
32. AYE	Ayr and Kilmarnock.
33. WIGTON	Wigton.

CHAPTER V.

IRELAND.

The remaining division of the United Kingdom is an island, lying to the westward of Great Britain, named Ireland.

It is bounded on the North and West by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the East and South by the Irish Channel.

Ireland is sometimes called the Emerald Isle, on account of the bright green appearance of its shores, but the damp climate, which causes the grass to keep its freshness even in the driest season, is not favourable to the growth of corn. Grazing therefore answers better than farming, and the peasantry, in consequence, sometimes find it difficult to get employment.

The population of Ireland has much decreased in number during the last fifteen years, and a great many families have left it, to go to America.

Ireland produces coal and iron; peat also, which is used for fuel, is found in great quantities.

Its most important productions are,—cattle, pigs, butter, and Irish linen; the latter is manufactured largely at Belfast, and at other towns in the north.

Dublin is the capital of Ireland, and is a very fine city.

The principal seaports are Queenstown, formerly the Cove of Cork; Kingstown, situated a few miles from Dublin; Waterford, Wexford, Drogheda, Dundalk, Belfast, Sligo and Galway.

The highest mountains are the Mac Gillicuddy's Reeks, near Killarney, in the county of Kerry.

The principal rivers in Ireland are the Shannon, the Foyle, the Bann, the Boyne, the Liffey, the Barrow and the Blackwater.

The chief lakes are Lough Neagh, the largest in the United Kingdom; Lough Ree, Lough Derg, and the beautiful Lakes of Killarney.

Ireland was formerly divided into four kingdoms, now called provinces, which are named Ulster, Leinster, Connaught, and Munster.

It is also divided into thirty-two counties.

COUNTIES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. DONEGAL	Lifford.
2. DERRY	Londonderry.
3. ANTRIM	Belfast.
4. TYRONE	Omagh.
5. DOWN	Downpatrick and Newry.

COUNTIES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
6. ARMAGH	Armagh.
7. MONAGHAN	Monaghan.
8. FERMANAGH	Enniskillen.
9. CAVAN	Cavan.
10. LONGFORD	Longford.
11. WESTMEATH	Mullingar and Athlone.
12. MEATH.....	Trim.
13. LOUTH	Dundalk and Drogheda.
14. DUBLIN.....	Dublin and Kingstown.
15. KILDARE	Athy and Maynooth.
16. KING'S COUNTY	Tullamore and Naas.
17. QUEEN'S COUNTY.....	Maryborough.
18. WICKLOW	Wicklow and Arklow.
19. WEXFORD	Wexford and New Ross.
20. CARLOW	Carlow.
21. KILKENNY	Kilkenny.
22. TIPPERARY	Tipperary and Cashel.
23. WATERFORD	Waterford and Dungarvan.
24. CORK	Cork, Queenstown, and Youghal.
25. KERRY	Tralee and Killarney.
26. LIMERICK	Limerick.
27. CLARE	Ennis.
28. GALWAY	Galway.
29. MAYO	Castlebar and Westport.
30. SLIGO	Sligo.
31. ROSCOMMON	Roscommon.
32. LEITRIM	Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim.

The kingdom of Ireland was first united to England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.



CHAPTER VI.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN EUROPE.

The English possessions in Europe, with the exception of the British Isles, already described, are of no great extent; and now, that the Ionian Islands have been given up to the King of Greece, only consist of the peninsula of Gibraltar, and the Islands of Malta and Heligoland.

Gibraltar, or "The Rock," as it is sometimes called, is one of the most strongly fortified places in the world. It is situated on a small peninsula in the South of Spain, and commands the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.

Gibraltar was taken by the English from the Spaniards,* more than one hundred and sixty years ago, and has ever since remained in their possession.

Gibraltar is always defended by a large number of English troops, and it is an important station for steamers to coal at, particularly for those employed in what is called the Overland route to India.

Malta is an Island in the Mediterranean Sea, and forms an important military station for the English. It is also useful as a coal depôt, for the steamers employed in the Overland route.

The chief town of Malta is Valetta, and two

* A.D. 1704.

- small islands Gozo and Comino, belong to this command. Malta came under the protection of England about sixty years ago.*

Heligoland is a small rocky island in the German Ocean, which was taken from the Danes about sixty years ago.†

It is chiefly inhabited by fishermen, who are descended from the Frisians.

The small island of Sandy, which is sometimes used by the Germans as a bathing station, in summer, belongs to Heligoland.

CHAPTER VII.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN ASIA.

The chief possessions of the English in Asia are:—British India, consisting of nearly the whole of the peninsula of Hindostan; the island of Ceylon and British Burmah;—the island of Hong Kong in the China Sea; those of Labuan, Singapore and Pinang, in the Malay Archipelago; and the small peninsula of Aden, at the entrance of the Red Sea.

Hindostan is bounded on the North by the Himalaya Mountains, on the South by the Indian Ocean, on the East by the Bay of Bengal, and on the West by the Arabian Sea.

The chief mountains in Hindostan are:—the

* A.D. 1800,

† A.D. 1807.

Himalaya or Snowy Mountains, the Suliman Mountains, the Western Ghauts, the Eastern Ghauts, and the Vindhya Mountains.

The principal rivers are :—the Ganges, with its branch called the Hoogly; the Indus, the Nerbudda, the Tapti, the Mahanuddy, the Godavery, the Kistna, and the Punnair river.

The British possessions in Hindostan, including Burmah, are nearly ten times the size of the British Isles, and they contain nearly five times the population. They are all, more or less, under the superintendence of the Governor General of India, but each presidency and province has either a governor or a lieutenant governor of its own. The names of the principal divisions of British India, and their chief towns, are as follows, namely :—

1. THE PRESIDENCY OF BENGAL, whose chief town, Calcutta, is the capital of India.

2. THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCES, of which the chief towns are Benares, Delhi, Bareilly, Agra, and Allahabad.

3. THE PROVINCE OF THE PUNJAUB, the chief towns of which are Lahore, Amritser, and Mooltan.

4. THE PROVINCE OF OUDE, of which the chief towns are Lucknow, Oude, and Cawnpore.

5. THE PRESIDENCY OF MADRAS, in which Madras and Tanjore are the most remarkable towns.

6. THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH BURMAH, including Pegu, of which the chief towns are Pegu, Rangoon, and Amherst.

7. THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY, including Scinde, the chief towns of which are Bombay, Surat, Ahmedabad, and Hyderabad.

9. THE BERAR DISTRICTS, chief town, Nagpore.

In addition to the divisions above mentioned, Hindostan contains a large number of native states, some called independent, and others protected states, but all more or less connected with the British government; some, indeed, are almost entirely under the English rule. Mysore, for instance, of which the chief towns are Mysore and Seringapatam; and which was formerly the kingdom of Hyder Ali and his son Tippoo Saib, is now but little different from an English province.

The most powerful of the protected states is named Hyderabad, or the Nizam's Dominions, and is situated in what is called the Deccan. Its chief town is Hyderabad, near to which are the famous diamond mines of Golconda.

The Andaman Islands, in the Bay of Bengal, belong to England.

The Island of Ceylon is included in British India, although it is not under the rule of the governor general. It is situated to the south of Hindostan,

from which it is divided by the Palk Strait. The chief towns of Ceylon are :—Colombo, Kandy and Trincomalee. Ceylon is famous for its pearls, which are found in its surrounding seas.

Aden, a small rocky point of land, situated near the south west corner of Arabia, at the entrance to the Red Sea, also belongs to British India; and is valuable as a coaling station, for the steam vessels employed on the Overland route.

The first English settlements in India were made so far back as the reign of Queen Elizabeth; since which time, the British dominions have increased, bit by bit, until they have at length arrived at their present enormous size.

The government of England has now taken upon itself the entire control of British India; but previous to the Sepoy Mutiny, which took place only a few years back,* the principal management of affairs rested with a company of merchants called the East India Company.

The small island of Hong Kong is a very important trading station for the English. It is situated in the China Sea, immediately opposite to the mouth of the Canton River, and is separated from China by a strait, known as the Lymoon Pass. The capital of Hong Kong is Victoria.

Labuan is a small island, near Borneo, which has

* A.D. 1857.

lately been settled by the English. It has a good harbour.

Malacca, with the neighbouring islands of Pinang and Singapore, are now placed under a governor of their own.

CHAPTER VIII.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN AFRICA.

The chief British Possessions in Africa are situated to the south ; and consist of the colonies of the Cape of Good Hope, and Natal, and the newly settled district called " British Kaffraria."

" The Cape of Good Hope," or " The Cape Colony," as it is sometimes called,—derives its name from the well-known Cape, at the south west corner of Africa.

It was taken from the Dutch for the second time about* sixty years ago, and has since become a large and thriving English colony. Its capital is Cape Town, which has been built at the foot of Table Mountain, and facing Table Bay. Its other chief towns are, Port Elizabeth, in Algoa Bay ; and Graham's Town.

The Cape of Good Hope produces wool, cattle, sheep, horses, wheat, and other grains, and is celebrated for its wines, particularly for the kind called " Constantia." Copper is also found in the north west.

* A.D. 1806.

Natal is a small colony to the north eastward of Cape Town, and about 800 miles distant from it. It was formed into a separate government about* ten years back, and is gradually growing into importance.

Natal produces cotton, sugar, coffee, tobacco, and maize, and is a well watered country.

Its chief towns are D'Urban, near Port Natal; and Pietermaritzburg.

British Kaffraria is the sea coast district, lying between the Cape Colony and Natal, and has only been formed into a colony since 1860.

Its climate is healthy, and it exports wool, hides, timber, and grain.

The capital of British Kaffraria is King William's Town, and its sea-port is called East London.

The British Possessions on the west coast of Africa are,—Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Cape Coast Castle, which are only of use as trading stations.

They export ivory, gold dust, and palm oil.

The principal island belonging to Great Britain off the coast of Africa is Mauritius, a small island in the Indian Ocean, which was taken from the French about* fifty years ago. It exports a large quantity of sugar, and other tropical productions. Its capital is Port Louis.

The government of Mauritius includes the island

* A.D. 1856. † A.D. 1810.

of Rodrigues, the Seychelles, and other small islands.

Off the western coast of Africa, England possesses the Islands of St. Helena and Ascension. The Island of St. Helena was taken from the Dutch nearly* two hundred years ago, and is famous as the place to which Napoleon Buonaparte was banished, and where he died. It is a very small island, but it supplies ships on their homeward voyage from India with fresh provisions and water. Its capital is James Town.

Ascension is a still smaller island in the Atlantic Ocean, situated to the north west of St. Helena. It has very few inhabitants, but it is a useful station for ships to call at when in want of water.

CHAPTER IX.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN AMERICA.

The British possessions in America consist of British America and the Bermudas Islands in the north; the West Indies and British Guiana, in the tropics; and the Falkland Islands in the south.

British America is bounded on the North by the Arctic Ocean and Davis Strait, on the East by the Atlantic Ocean, on the South by the United States, and on the West by Russian America and the Pacific Ocean.

* A.D. 1673.

It is divided into the following separate colonies, namely :—Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Vancouver's Island, British Columbia, and the Hudson's Bay Territory.

At present all these divisions possess separate governments, but it is probable before long they will form a confederation.

Canada, the most important of the North American Colonies, is divided into Eastern and Western Canada, and is situated to the north of the Lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario, and to the river St. Lawrence, until where the 45th degree of latitude cuts that stream: the southern boundary of Canada then follows the 45th degree of latitude, until it meets the borders of New Hampshire and Maine, when it turns northward; Maine and New Brunswick forming the eastern boundary of the province.

Neither the northern nor the western boundary of Canada has as yet been quite settled; but the country may be said to be about a thousand miles long, and to average three hundred miles in breadth.

Canada contains no mountains of importance, and is in general a rather flat country.

The principal lakes are Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario. Lake Michigan, although it joins Lake Huron, belongs to the United States.

These lakes are the greatest fresh water lakes in the world, and their water is beautifully clear and pure.

The great river St. Lawrence runs out of Lake Ontario near Kingston, and after flowing past Montreal and Quebec, falls into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, near the island of Anticosti.

The other chief streams in Canada are the Ottawa, the St. Maurice, the Chaudiere, and the Saguenay, all of which fall into the St. Lawrence; and the river Thames, which flows into Lake Erie.

Canada is rich in iron, copper, and other minerals, although but few mines have as yet been worked; it also produces petroleum oil; but its chief exports are timber, or lumber, as it is called, which its vast forests supply in great abundance, pot and pearl ashes, wheat, flour, cattle, wool, butter and cheese.

Canada contains nearly as many inhabitants as Scotland, the greater proportion of whom are British settlers, but many in Canada East are descended from the old French colonists. The capital of Canada is Ottawa, a small town on the river Ottawa. The chief towns in Canada are:—

1. Quebec, formerly the capital of East Canada, is situated on the St. Lawrence, at the spot where a kind of bay is formed, by the small river St. Charles falling into it; the town is fortified, and Men of War can anchor close to it in safety. Quebec is famous in history for the great battle

fought on the Heights of Abram, close to its walls, in which General Wolfe gained a glorious victory for the English, but lost his own life.

2. Montreal, once the capital of Canada, is still the chief trading town in the United Province. It is built on an island near where the Ottawa falls into the St. Lawrence, and as it is placed at the highest point on the latter river, to which large merchant vessels can reach in safety, it commands, of course, a good trade. The Grand Trunk Railway of Canada passes through Montreal, and connects it both with the United States and the sea-ports on the Atlantic, and also with the far west. Montreal has also access to the Lakes Ontario and Erie, by means of canals, which have been made to avoid the rapids on the Upper St. Lawrence, and the still greater obstruction on the Niagara stream, caused by the famous falls of Niagara.

3. Toronto is a large town on Lake Ontario. It was formerly the capital of Canada West or Upper Canada, as it was then called.

4, 5, 6. Hamilton, Coburg, and Kingston, are all fine towns on Lake Ontario.

7. New London is a thriving town on the River Thames.

8. Three Rivers is a large trading town, situated at the junction of the St. Maurice with the St. Lawrence.

Another division of British North America is

named New Brunswick, and is situated to the eastward of Canada. It also forms the northern and eastern boundary of the State of Maine, U.S.

The principal river in New Brunswick is the River St. John.

Its chief towns are Fredericton and St. John, both situated on the River St. John.

New Brunswick is very rich in coal and iron, but its chief exports are timber, wheat, and dried fish.

It is but thinly inhabited at present, and its population consists principally of British settlers.

A third division of British America is named Nova Scotia, and is joined to New Brunswick by a low sandy isthmus.

Nova Scotia, itself, is a peninsula, but the island of Breton, which is separated from it by the Strait of Canso, is included in the government. Nova Scotia possesses a number of fine harbours on its south eastern shore, the principal of which, named Halifax, is one of the finest harbours in the world.

The capital of Nova Scotia is Halifax, where the English government have a large dockyard.

Nova Scotia is rich in coal, iron, and other minerals; gold even has been found in small quantities, but its chief exports are timber, cattle, and preserved fish.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick formed formerly the French colony of Acadia, but they were given

up to the English more than 150* years back. The island of Newfoundland forms another division of British America, and is situated to the north east of Nova Scotia.

Newfoundland is about the size of England and Wales, but it has only a very small population, most of whom are engaged in fishing. The capital of Newfoundland is St. John's.

The exports of Newfoundland consist principally of preserved fish and fish oil; but they are worth more than a million pounds a year.

Newfoundland is one of the oldest English settlements, having been first colonized by Sir Walter Raleigh in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The island of Prince Edward is situated between Newfoundland and New Brunswick, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is a small island of no great importance, and its inhabitants are chiefly farmers.

The island of Vancouver is situated on the western coast of British North America, and was only formed into a colony about seven years ago.† Its capital is named Victoria.

British Columbia is situated between Vancouver Island and the Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Rocky Mountains on the east, and is bounded on the south by the United States' Territory.

British Columbia, until about eight years back,

* A.D. 1713.

† A.D. 1859

formed part of the Hudson's Bay Territory, but it was* then formed into a colony, including Queen Charlotte Island, which is separated from it by Queen Charlotte Sound.

The climate is temperate, and it is a most beautiful country.

It is rich in gold and coal, and its timber is the finest in the world.

The capital of British Columbia is named New Westminster.

The Hudson's Bay Territory comprises nearly the remainder of British North America, and consists of a vast unsettled tract of country with no certain boundaries.

It is chiefly inhabited by North American Indians and trappers, and its exports entirely consist of furs and skins.

The following are the chief animals found in North America whose skins are valuable as articles of commerce, namely,—the bear, the beaver, the bison or buffalo, the wolverine, the fox, the opossum, the musquash, the lynx, the seal, the marten, the ermine and the mink.

* A.D. 1858.

CHAPTER X.

THE BERMUDAS, THE WEST INDIES, AND THE
FALKLAND ISLES.

The Bermudas, or Sommers Isles, as they are sometimes called, are situated in the Atlantic Ocean, to the eastward of the United States of America. The larger islands are five in number, and are named,— St. George's, St. David's, Bermuda, Somerset, and Ireland. A fortified dockyard and British naval station have recently been formed on Ireland Island, and there are two well built towns belonging to the group, namely,— St. George's and Hamilton.

The West Indies or Antilles, are the islands situated between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, and are altogether nearly as large in size as the island of Great Britain.

The English West Indian Islands are :—

1. JAMAICA, — of which the chief towns are Spanish Town, Kingston and Montego Bay.
2. BARBADOES, —capital, Bridgetown.
3. TRINIDAD, —capital, Port of Spain.
4. The BAHAMA ISLANDS, in the north, — of which the capital is Nassau, on the island of New Providence.
5. The GREAT and LITTLE CAYMANS, —of which George Town is the capital.

6. ANTIGUA,—capital St. John, which,—with the island of Dominica, St. Christopher, Montserrat, Nevis and the Virgin Islands,—form the leeward group.

7. The WINDWARD ISLANDS, — consisting of Grenada, St. Vincent, Tobago and St. Lucia.

8. And TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS, situated near the Bahamas.

In addition to the West Indian Islands, the British possessions in these seas include the settlement of British Honduras, on the east coast of Central America, and that of British Guiana, on the north coast of South America.

British Honduras is famous for its mahogany. Its capital is Belize.

British Guiana or Guayana, includes the settlements on the rivers Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo, and has George Town for its capital.

The chief West Indian Islands, not belonging to England, are,—

1. The SPANISH ISLANDS, namely:—Cuba, the largest West Indian isle, of which Havana is the capital, and which is famous for its tobacco and for the large quantity of copper which it exports; and Porto Rico, the capital of which is San Juan.

2. HAYTI, or St. DOMINGO,—an independent negro state, formerly belonging to France. Its chief towns are Cap Haytien, Port-au-Prince, and San Domingo.

3. THE FRENCH ISLANDS, namely:—Martinique, Guadeloupe, Deseada, Mariegalante and Saintes.

4. The DANISH ISLANDS, namely:—Santa Cruz, St. John and St. Thomas.

5. The DUTCH ISLANDS, namely:—Curaçoa, St. Eustatius and Saba.

And, 6, the SWEDISH ISLAND of St. Bartholomew.

The island St. Martin belongs partly to France and partly to Holland.

The West Indies produce sugar, coffee, cocoa, indigo, tobacco, cotton, dye-woods, peppers and spices.

The Caribs, a gentle and harmless race of Indians, formerly inhabited the West Indian Islands, but they have long since been destroyed, and the present population consists of the descendants of European settlers and those of their former negro slaves.

The Falkland Islands belong to England, and are situated in the Atlantic Ocean, off the south east corner of South America. These islands produce cattle, horses, pigs and a few sheep; and are very useful as stations for ships employed in the whale fishery.

The principal settlements in the Falkland Islands are at Stanley Harbour and at Anson, or Port Louis.

CHAPTER XI.

AUSTRALASIA.

The fifth "great division" of the world is called Australasia, or "Southern Asia," and contains, besides the British Possessions, the large island of Papua, or New Guinea, the Admiralty Islands, New Britain, New Ireland, the Salomon Islands, the Louisiade Islands, the New Hebrides, and New Caledonia. All these islands are situated between Polynesia and the continent of Australia, and with the exception of New Caledonia, which has recently been colonized by the French, are but little known to Europeans.

The British Possessions in Australasia consist of the continent of Australia, with the Island of Tasmania to the south; the colony of New Zealand, and the small islands in the neighbourhood, including Norfolk Island.

Australia is at present divided into the following separate colonies, namely,—New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, and Queensland, to the latter North Australia is attached, until completely settled.

New South Wales, the oldest settlement in Australia, is situated on the eastern coast, and is bounded on the north by Queensland, on the south

by Victoria, and on the west by South Australia. It is a fine healthy country, and is rich in gold and coal. It also produces wine, cattle and sheep, and its exports of wool are very valuable. The chief towns in New South Wales are:—Sydney, on the fine bay called Port Jackson; Newcastle, famous for its coal; Bathurst and Paramatta.

Victoria, formerly called Port Phillip, is situated on the southern coast of Australia, between the colonies of New South Wales and South Australia. Victoria is famous for its numerous and rich gold fields, and it also exports large quantities of merino, and other wool, every year.

The chief towns in Victoria, are:—Melbourne, a flourishing town on the Yarra Yarra, near where that river falls into Port Phillip Harbour; Geelong, Williamstown, and the three great gold field towns, named Ballarat, Castlemaine and Sandhurst.

Melbourne is connected with its port called Hobson's Bay, by two railways; and Victoria possesses a very perfect railway system, which unites the river Murray and the principal gold fields with the capital.

Victoria produces wheat, oats, grapes, and many kinds of English fruits in abundance.

South Australia separates Victoria from West Australia, and is very rich in copper, but gold has not yet been discovered within its boundaries. Its

capital is Adelaide. South Australia exports wheat, flour, wool, oats, wine and copper. Its grapes are very fine.

West Australia is situated on the western coast of the continent, and has, until lately, been used as a convict station.

Its capital is Perth, and King George's Sound forms a good harbour on its southern coast.

Northern and north western Australia are as yet only inhabited by the aboriginal tribes, some of whom are cruel and treacherous savages, while others are harmless and even kind to strangers. They are all of a low type and great gluttons.

The principal rivers in Australia are :—the River Murray on the south, with its great affluents the Darling, the Lachlan, and the Murrumbidgee ; and the Victoria River, the Flinders River, and the Burdekin River on the north.

The chief mountains in Australia are the Australian Alps, near the south-eastern corner of the continent ; the Blue Mountains to the north of the Alps ; and the Liverpool Range to the north of the Blue Mountains.

The largest gulf is that of Carpentaria, on the north.

. The principal capes are :—Cape Leuwin, Cape Wilson, or Wilson's Promontory, Cape Howe, Cape Sandy and Cape York.

The principal straits are :—Torres' Strait, on the north, and Bass' Strait, on the south.

Tasmania, formerly called Van Diemen's Land, is a large island separated from the continent of Australia by Bass' Straits.

Its chief towns are Hobart Town, on the south, and Launceston, on the north side of the island.

Tasmania was formerly a station for English convicts, but it has now ceased to be a penal settlement.

The climate of Tasmania is a very healthy one, and the country is said to be more like England than any other British colony. It produces wheat and other grain, and all kinds of provisions and fruits in abundance. It is also rich in cattle, horses and sheep, and gold has been found in small quantities.

New Zealand consists of two large islands and several smaller ones, and is situated to the south-eastward of Australia.

The principal towns are :—Auckland, Napier, Wellington and Taranaki, or New Plymouth, in the northern island ; and Nelson, Christchurch, and Dunedin in the middle island.

New Zealand has several rich gold fields, and it also exports wool in large quantities.

The middle and southern islands are very thinly inhabited, there being but few aboriginal blacks

living in them. In the northern island, on the contrary, there are several tribes of Maories ; some of them brave and noble savages, like the Waikatoes, while others are cruel and cowardly, like the southern natives. The Maories give much trouble to the white settlers in the northern island, and wars often take place in consequence.

CHAPTER XII.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS.

(Continued from page 8.)

The earth is called a sphere, but it is, in fact, a spheroid ; that is to say, a sphere slightly flattened near the two poles, like an orange, flattened at the top and bottom.

The earth whirls round on its axis, from west to east, once in every twenty-four hours. To explain this movement, let us suppose a thin pin to be driven through the two marks which are generally found on the top and bottom of an orange, so as to pierce its centre also. Then let us fancy the orange to be spun round the pin, very swiftly, in a direction from left to right, and we shall have a rough representation of the earth's daily movement round its axis. Moreover, the mark on the top of the orange may be likened to the North Pole, that underneath to the South Pole, while the pin may be supposed to represent the earth's axis, which is,

in fact, only an imaginary line passing through the centre of the earth, and joining together two unmarked spots on its surface called the North and South Poles.

The earth, however, has a second movement; that is to say, in addition to turning on its axis it moves round the sun, in what is called the earth's orbit, once in every year. These double movements of the earth may perhaps be better understood if we suppose the orange mentioned above to be pushed steadily round some object in the middle of a table while still spinning quickly on its pin, until a sort of circle be described about the central object, remembering, always, that the sun is only *exactly* opposite to the earth twice in the year, namely, about the 21st of March and the 23rd of September, which are commonly called the Equinoxes. The word Equinox, or "equal nights," means that the days are nearly of equal length with the nights, at these periods of the year.

At the time of the Equinox, the sun is nearly opposite those countries through which a circle, called the Equator, is drawn upon all globes.

The Equator divides the globe into the northern and southern hemispheres, and is drawn at an equal distance from each pole.

A line passing round the earth, at the Equator, *would measure* about 25,000 miles, which is called

the circumference of the earth. On globes and maps, the Equator is divided into 360 degrees of equal length; and lines have been drawn from pole to pole, passing through each one of these degrees. These lines are called Meridians of Longitude.

Small circles have also been drawn parallel to the Equator, at certain intervals; and these lines are called Parallels of Latitude.

Longitude in the British Empire means the distance of any spot, measured in degrees, from Greenwich Observatory, near London; and is called East or West Longitude, according as the place is on the right or left hand side of that town.

Latitude means the distance of any spot, measured in degrees, from the Equator, and is called North or South Latitude, according to the hemisphere in which it is placed.

To find the position of any place on a map, when the latitude and longitude are given,

First look down *the side* of the map, until a number is found corresponding to the degree of *latitude*. Then search either the *top* or *bottom* of the map, for a number corresponding to the degree of *longitude*. Lastly, let imaginary lines be drawn from these two numbers, parallel to the lines on the map, until they meet together; and then the point of meeting will be the position of the place required.

In addition to the Parallels of Latitude, two small

circles, also parallel to the Equator, have been drawn at a distance of $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, both north and south of it, on globes and maps:

The circle to the northward is called the Tropic of Cancer, and it is placed so as to represent the position of the sun on the 21st of each June.

The circle to the southward is called the Tropic of Capricorn, and represents the position of the sun on the 21st of every December.

The countries which lie between these two circles are said to be either in the Tropics, or in the Torrid Zone, which means "a hot belt."

The countries which lie between the tropics and two other circles, named the Arctic, and Antarctic circles, are said to be in the Temperate Zones. While those situated to the north and south of these polar circles are said to be in the Frigid Zones.

The Ecliptic, or "sun's course," as it is also called, represents the course which the sun appears to take while the earth is moving in its proper orbit.

The Ecliptic is so named because all eclipses take place when the sun is nearly opposite some spot on the earth's surface through which the line has been made to pass.

An eclipse of the sun is caused by the moon passing between the sun and the earth, so as to stop *some of the rays* of light from reaching the earth.

An eclipse of the moon is caused by the earth passing between the sun and the moon, so as to stop some of the rays of light from reaching the moon.

Every degree is divided into 60 miles, or minutes; and 60 geographical miles, or one degree, are equal to $69\frac{1}{2}$ English miles.

CHAPTER XIII.

ASIA.

Asia, the second "great division" of the globe, contains four times as much land as Europe.

It is bounded on the North by the Arctic Ocean, on the East by the North Pacific Ocean, on the South by the Indian Ocean, and on the West by the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea, and the Oural Mountains.

The principal seas belonging to Asia are,—The Kamtschatka Sea, the Okhotsk Sea, the Japan Sea, The Yellow Sea, and the China Sea, on the east; the Bay of Bengal, and the Arabian Sea, on the south; and the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Levant, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, and the Sea of Aral, on the west.

Asia is divided from North America by the Bhering Strait.

The principal islands of Asia are,—The Aleutian Islands, the Kurile Islands, the Japan Islands, the Philippine Islands,—CHIEF TOWN MANILLA,—The Dutch Islands in the Malay Archipelago, of which

the chief are, Sumatra, Java (Chief Town, Batavia, the capital of the Dutch Possessions in the East); Celebes, Banca, famous for tin, Timor, and the Moluccas;—Borneo, Ceylon, Cyprus and the Island of Rhodes.

The chief rivers in Asia are,—The Euphrates and Tigris, both of which flow into the Persian Gulf; the Indus and the Ganges, in Hindostan; the Obi, in Siberia; and the Rivers Hoang-ho and Yang-tseu-kiang, in China.

The principal mountains in Asia are,—The Himalayas, to the north of Hindostan, said to be the highest range in the world; the Kwanlun Mountains in the Chinese Empire, and the Hindoo Koosh Chain to the westward, which extends nearly to the Ararat Mountains in Turkey; the Taurus chain to the north of Syria; and the Mountains of Lebanon in Northern Syria, to the westward of Damascus.

Asia is divided into the following countries, namely:—

1. ARABIA, situated on the western boundary of Asia, between the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, is a country about six times the size of the British Isles.

Nearly two thirds of the whole of Arabia are desert plains and plateaus; but there are several fertile spots both in the central as well as in the coast divisions of the country.

The principal towns in Arabia are, — Sana,

Mocha, Muscat, Mecca, where Mahomet was born, and Medina, where he was buried.

Arabia is famous for its horses, and it produces coffee, dates, and gum.

2. TURKEY IN ASIA, *see* Chapter xxx.

3. PERSIA, which is situated to the eastward of Turkey and the Persian Gulf, is a country about five times as large as the island of Great Britain.

The Ruler of Persia is called "the Shah." The chief towns in Persia are,—Teheran, Ispahan, and Shiraz. Persia is noted for its silk and carpet manufactures, and also for its attar of roses.

4. TURKESTAN, or the land of the Turks, is situated to the north east of Persia. It is governed by several chiefs, called Khans. The chief towns in Turkestan are,—Bokhara, Kima and Samarkand.

5. CABOOL AND AFGHANISTAN, situated to the south of Turkestan, and to the westward of Hindostan, are separated from British India by the Suliman Mountains. The chief towns are,—Cabool, Kandahar, and Herat.

6. BELOOCHISTAN is situated south of Afghanistan, and has Kelat and Beila for its chief towns.

7. HINDOSTAN, *see* Chapter vii.

8. THE CHINESE EMPIRE, which is situated to the northward of Hindostan, and extends as far as the Yellow Sea to the eastward, occupies nearly one third of the whole continent of Asia, and is bounded

on the north by Siberia. It is sub-divided into China Proper, commonly called China, Thibet,* Mongolia, Mandchouria, and some other states.

CHINA, situated in the south eastern corner of the empire, is better known to Europeans than the other divisions.

Its capital, named Peking, is supposed to be the largest city in the world next to London.

The chief towns in China, in addition to Peking, are Nankin, Canton, Amoy, Ningpo and Shanghai.

China is very thickly inhabited, and is famous for the large quantity of tea it produces.

China exports, besides tea, silk, cotton, rice, preserved ginger, chinaware, and curiosities of various kinds.

It is also rich in gold, silver, copper, quicksilver, and coal.

9. JAPAN, sometimes called the Japan Empire, consists of several islands off the north east coast of Asia.

The largest island is named Nippon, and contains Yedo the capital.

10. Another division of Asia is named Siberia, and belongs to Russia.—See Chapter xxviii.

The remaining countries in Asia are situated to the south, namely :—

* The Grand Lama, the religious head of the Tartar race, resides at Lhasa, the capital of Thibet.

11. BIRMAH, capital, Monchobo.
12. SIAM, chief town, Basikok : and
13. COCHIN CHINA, capital, Hué.

In Asia, the Christian Religion does not prevail to any great extent, but there are many Mahometans, more Buddhists, some Parsees, or fire worshippers, and a number of Hindoo Idolaters, in different parts of the continent.

CHAPTER XIV.

AFRICA.

Africa, the third “ great division ” of the globe, is bounded on the North by the Mediterranean Sea, on the East by the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, and on the South and West by the Atlantic Ocean.

It is united to Asia by the Isthmus of Suez.

The chief mountains of Africa are, the Mountains of the Moon on the east, including Mount Kenia, which is more than 20,000 feet high ; Mount Atlas on the north ; the Mashona Mountains to the south, and the Drakenbergen and Niewveld Mountains, near the Cape of Good Hope.

The principal rivers in Africa are,—The Nile, which rises in the Victoria Nyanza Lake, and flows into the Mediterranean Sea ; the Senegal, the Gambia, the Niger, the Congo, and the Orange River, all running into the Atlantic Ocean ; and the Zambezi River which falls into the Indian Ocean.

The chief islands of Africa are,—Madagascar,

and Socotra on the east; the British Islands described at *Page 25*; the Islands of Bourbon and Mayotta, belonging to France, and the following islands in the Atlantic Ocean, namely,—Madeira, the Cape Verde Islands, St. Thomas and Prince's Island, belonging to Portugal; and the Canaries, Fernando Po, and Annobon Island, belonging to Spain.

Africa is less known than any other great division of the earth, the principal settlements being on the sea coasts.

Between the northern settlements of Africa, and Lake Chad in its centre, a great desert extends nearly across the continent. It is called the “The Sahara,” or “*The Desert.*”

Besides the British settlements in Africa already described, and the Dutch Free States in the south, the continent contains the following important countries, namely,—Egypt, Tripoli, Fezzan, and Tunis, which belong to Turkey.—*See Chapter xxx.*

Morocco, a large empire opposite Spain, famous for the manufacture of morocco leather. Its chief towns are,—Morocco, Fez, and Mogador. And lastly, Algeria, capital Algiers, which is the most important colony belonging to France.

On the western coast of Africa below Sierra Leone, a free settlement of civilized negroes has been formed; it is named Liberia.

The principal native races of Africa are called

Negroes towards the centre, and Caffres, Hottentots, and Bushmen towards the south.

Africa produces gold, ivory, rice, indigo, pepper, and palm oil.

The Mahometan religion extends over the north, part of Africa, and Fetishism and other kinds of idolatry prevail in the south.

CHAPTER XV.

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.

America, the largest of the six “great divisions” of the globe, consists of two continents, called North and South America, which are joined together by the Isthmus of Panama.

North America is divided into British North America (which has been described in Chapter ix.), the United States, and Mexico.

The chief islands in North America are,—Greenland, Newfoundland, Vancouver’s Isle, and the islands in the Arctic Ocean. The principal rivers are,—The Mackenzie River in the north; the St. Lawrence in Canada, the Mississippi in the south, which forms with its branches the Missouri and the Ohio, one of the largest rivers in the world; and the rivers Columbia or Oregon, and Colorado in the west.

The chief mountains in North America are,—The

Alleghany Mountains near the east coast, and an immense chain of mountains near the west coast, which extends from north to south, under the following names, viz., the Rocky Mountains, the Oregon Mountains, and the Sierra Madre or Mexican Mountains. The largest lakes in North America are,—The Great Bear Lake, the Great Slave Lake, Lake Athabasca, Lake Winnipeg, and Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.

The United States of America are bounded on the North by the British Possessions ; on the South by the Empire and Gulf of Mexico ; on the East by the Atlantic Ocean ; and on the West by the Pacific Ocean.

The United States, in the north, are rich in coal, iron, and petroleum oil ; and gold is found in great quantities in California.

The southern states produce cotton, sugar, rice, and tobacco.

The United States form a federal republic of about forty different states and territories. They originally consisted of only thirteen states, formerly British colonies, which became independent of England in the reign of George the Third, nearly one hundred years back.*

The capital of the United States is Washington.

The chief towns are :—Boston and Portland in

* A.D. 1776.

the north-eastern or New England States ; New York, Albany, and Buffalo in the middle states ; Washington, Richmond, Charleston, and New Orleans in the southern states ; Chicago, Detroit, Iowa, St. Paul's, and San Francisco in the western states ; and Salt Lake City in the Utah Territory.

Recently, the southern provinces declared themselves independent of the other states, and tried to form themselves into a separate Republic, to be called the Confederate States, but after a fearful civil war, which lasted for three years, they were forced to yield to the northern states ; and now the Union remains as it was before, with the exception of slavery, which has been quite done away with.

Mexico, formerly a Republic, is now an Empire.

It is situated to the south of the United States ; and it is famous for its silver mines.

The chief towns of Mexico are Mexico and Vera Cruz.

South America is bounded on the North by the Caribbean Sea ; on the East by the Atlantic Ocean ; on the South by the Southern Ocean ; and on the West by the Pacific Ocean.

Its principal island is Tierra del Fuego, to the south, which,—together with the small island of Cape Horn,—is divided from the continent by the Magellan Strait.

The chief mountains in South America are:—the many lofty ranges which, united, form the great Chain of the Andes, or “the Cordillera de los Andes,” as it is called, a chain which extends along the whole western coast of South America, from Panama to the Strait of Magellan. These ranges contain some of the highest volcanoes in the world, and the most lofty peaks are from 20,000 to 24,000 feet above the level of the sea. Some of the highest are,—Aconcagua in Chili, and Chimborazo, and Cotopaxi, near Quito in Ecuador.

The principal rivers are, — the Orinoco, the Marañon, or Amazon; the Araquay; the River San Francisco; and the River Parana, which flows into the Rio de la Plata. All these rivers fall into the Atlantic Ocean, and there is no stream of importance that runs into the Pacific.

South America is divided into the following independent states, namely:—

1. BRAZIL, the largest of the divisions of South America, is situated on the east side of the continent, and contains several large towns, of which the chief are:—Rio de Janeiro, or Rio; San Salvador, or Bahia; Recife, or Pernambuco; and Maranhao.

2. THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, or LA PLATA, of which the chief towns are Parana and Corrientes.

3. PARAGUAY,—capital, Assuncion.

4. BUENOS AYRES,—chief town, Buenos Ayres.
5. URUGUAY,—capital, Monte Video.
6. PATAGONIA, a wild country still inhabited chiefly by Indians.
7. TERRA DEL FUEGO, also unsettled.
8. CHILI, one of the most prosperous states in South America, of which the chief towns are Santiago and Valparaiso.
9. BOLIVIA, north of Chili, of which Chuquisaca and Potosi, famous for its silver mines, are the chief towns.
10. PERU, on the north western coast of South America, which has Lima and Callao for its chief towns.
11. ECUADOR,—capital, Quito.
12. THE GRANADIAN CONFEDERATION, situated to the north of Ecuador, of which Bogota and Cartagena are the chief towns.
13. VENEZUELA,—capital, Caracas.

14. And lastly, the GUIANAS, or GUAYANAS, north of Brazil, which are divided into English, Brazilian, Dutch, and French Guiana ; the latter is often called Cayenne, from the name of its capital.

South America is rich in gold, silver, copper, diamonds, and other precious stones. It also produces Indian rubber, dye-woods, sulphur, sugar, and tobacco.

Horses and cattle are very plentiful in South

America, and some of the states possess large flocks of lamas, (the South American camel,) and the more valuable alpaca, whose fleece is now much prized by English manufacturers.

The Christian religion extends over the whole of North and South America, under different forms ; but the members of the Roman Catholic Church are the most numerous.

CHAPTER XVI.

POLYNESIA.

Polynesia, or “ many islands,” is the name given to the sixth great division of the globe. It consists of the many clusters of islands scattered over the Pacific Ocean ; of which the following are the chief groups, namely :—

The Ladrone, or Mariana Isles, belonging to Spain.

The Caroline Islands, including the Pelew Isles and other groups.

The Sandwich Islands, of which Owhyhee is the chief.

The Fidgi, or Feejee Islands.

The Friendly Islands.

The Society Islands, the chief isle of which is named Tahiti, or Otaheite, under the protection of *France*.

The Mendana, or Marquesas Islands, also belonging to France.

The Low Archipelago and Cook's Islands, Navigator's Islands, Kermadec Isles, the South Shetlands and other islands.

The Polynesian Isles produce sugar, bread-fruit, cocoa-nuts, and other tropical fruits.

The inhabitants of some of the islands have been converted to Christianity.

CHAPTER XVII.

DIVISIONS OF EUROPE.—FRANCE.

France is one of the principal divisions of Europe, and is bounded on the North by the English Channel; on the South by the Pyrenees and the Mediterranean Sea; on the East by Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland; and on the West by the Bay of Biscay.

The chief mountains in France are:—the Pyrenees, to the south; the Cevennes Mountains, to the south-east; the Maritime Alps, between France and Italy; and the Jura Mountains, between France and Switzerland.

The principal rivers are:—the Seine, in the north; the Loire and the Garonne, which flow into the Bay of Biscay; and the Rhone, which falls into the Gulf of Lyons, to the South of Nismes.

The capital of France is Paris, a city on the

River Seine, which contains more than a million inhabitants.

The chief trading ports in France are Marseilles, Bordeaux, Havre de Grace, and Nantes.

The principal naval ports are Cherbourg, Toulon, and Brest.

The chief towns, in addition to the above, are :—
Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, Rouen, Caen, Lille, Strasbourg, Versailles, Amiens, Rheims, Metz, Tours, Angers, Orleans, Angoulême, Poitiers, Dijon, St. Etienne, Grenoble, Lyons, Nismes, Montpellier, and Toulouse.

The chief island belonging to France is Corsica, in the Mediterranean Sea, of which Ajaccio is the capital.

The largest other islands are, Belle Isle, Ushant, Ré, and Oléron, in the Bay of Biscay.

France is famous for its many kinds of wine, and also for its silk and velvet manufactures.

France is sometimes divided, in maps, into thirty-two provinces, and sometimes into eighty-six departments.

The size of France is nearly four times as large as England and Wales together, and it contains about eight million inhabitants *more* than the whole British Isles.

France was formerly a Kingdom, but it is now an *Empire*.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

Spain and Portugal, although separate kingdoms, are not divided by any well-marked natural boundary line. They occupy a peninsula at the south-west corner of Europe, and are divided from France by the Pyrenees.

They are bounded on the North by the Bay of Biscay; on the South and East by the Mediterranean Sea; and on the West by the Atlantic Ocean.

The chief mountains in this peninsula are :—the Asturian Mountains, in the north; the Castilian and Sierra d'Estrella range, further south; the Toledo Mountains, in the centre; and the Sierra Manchique and Morena Chain, and Sierra Nevada Mountains, in the south.

The principal rivers in Spain are the Ebro, the Guadalaviar, and the Segura, all running into the Mediterranean; and the River Guadalquivir, which flows into the Bay of Cadiz.

The chief rivers in Portugal are the Douro, the Tagus, and the Guadiana River.

The capital of Spain is Madrid; and that of Portugal is Lisbon, situated on the Tagus.

The chief sea-ports in Spain are Barcelona, Cadiz, and Corunna; and Ferrol is its chief naval arsenal.

The only great sea-port in Portugal is called Oporto; hence Oporto has given its name to port wine, from the fact that all wines from Portugal are shipped thence for Europe.

The principal towns in Spain are:—Seville, Granada, Valencia, Cordova, Malaga, Xeres—which gives its name to the wine called sherry—Toledo, Saragossa, and Carthage.

The Balearic Islands belong to Spain, and are situated to the east of Valencia. Their names are Minorca, Majorca, Iviça, and Formentura, and their chief towns are Palma, Mahon, and Iviza.

Spain and Portugal are both famous for their wines.

Spain is about the size of France, and Portugal is rather larger than Ireland. The population of Spain and Portugal are, together, about equal to that of England alone.

CHAPTER XIX.

SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland is a very mountainous country to the eastward of France, and near the centre of Europe.

Its chief mountains are:—the Pennine Alps, including Mont Blanc and Mont Rosa, the highest peaks in Europe; the Helvetic Alps, and the *Rhaetic Alps*, to the south; the Bernese Alps in *the centre*, and the Jura Mountains to the west.

The chief rivers are the Rhine, the Rhone, and the Ticino, which falls into the Po.

The principal lakes in Switzerland are the Lake of Geneva, the lakes of Zurich, Lucerne, Neufchatel, and Zug, and the Lake of Constance.

Switzerland is a Republic, divided into twenty-two cantons, or states.

Its capital is Berne, where the Diet meets ; and its other chief towns are Basel, Luzern, and Geneva. The latter is celebrated for its manufacture of watches.

Switzerland is about half the size of Scotland, but its population is only about a sixth part less than that of the latter country.

CHAPTER XX.

ITALY.

The peninsula of Italy is bounded on the North by the Alps ; on the South and West by the Mediterranean Sea ; and on the East by the Adriatic Sea.

The principal mountains in Italy are :—the Alps, in the north ; the Appenines, which run down the whole peninsula from north to south ; and three volcanoes, namely, Vesuvius, near Naples ; Etna, in Sicily, and Stromboli, in one of the Lipari Isles, to the north of Sicily.

The chief rivers are :—the Po, which falls into

the Adriatic; the Tiber, which runs past Rome, and flows into the Mediterranean; and the Arno, which passes by Florence, and falls into the Mediterranean, near Pisa.

The principal islands are:—Sardinia, of which Cagliari is the capital; Sicily, of which the chief towns are Palermo, Messina, Catania, Syracuse, and Girgenti; the island of Elba; the Ponza Isles; and the Lipari Islands.

The principal lakes in Italy are Lake Maggiore; and the Lakes of Como, of Iseo, and of Garda.

The greater part of the peninsula, and the whole of the islands, are now included in the kingdom of Italy; but Venetia, capital Venice, is still held by Austria; and the Pope continues to possess Rome, once the capital of the world, and the states immediately surrounding that city, including the port of Civita Vecchia. The very small republic of Marino and the city of Monaco are independent, and Savoy and Nice are now attached to France.

The kingdom of Italy has chosen Florence, on the Arno, for its present capital.

Its principal divisions and their chief towns are:—

DIVISIONS.	CHIEF TOWNS.
LOMBARDY	Milan, Como, and Cremona.
PIEDMONT	Turin, Genoa, and Alessandria.
AMILIA	Parma, Modena, and Carrara.
ROMAGNA	Bologna, Ferrara, and Ravenna.
TUSCANY	Florence, Leghorn, Lucca, and Pisa.
NAPLES	Naples, Gaeta, Salerno, and Taranto

Italy produces silk, oil, wine and sulphur, and is famous for its works of art and for its marble.

The kingdom of Italy is about twice the size of England and Wales, and contains nearly the same number of inhabitants.

CHAPTER XXI.

AUSTRIA.

The Empire of Austria is bounded on the North by Prussia and Russia; on the South by Italy and Turkey; on the East by Russia; and on the West by Switzerland and Bavaria.

The principal mountains in Austria are:—the Eastern Alps, and the Eastern Carpathians, in the south; and the Bohmerwald Mountains and Western Carpathians, in the north.

The chief rivers in Austria are the Danube and the Elbe.

The chief lakes are the Platten See and the Neusiedler Lake.

Austria has several islands in the Adriatic Sea, but none of any great importance.

The Empire of Austria is divided into the following separate states, of which the first seven form the nine provinces of the German empire. See Chapter XXIII.

STATES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. AUSTRIA	Vienna and Linn.
2. TYROL	Innsbruck.
3. STYRIA	Graz.
4. ILLYRIA, including {	CARINTHIA Klagenfurt.
	CARNIOLA Laibach.
	THE MARITIME PROVINCES Trieste.
5. BOHEMIA	Prague.
6. MORAVIA	Brunn.
7. SILESIA	Troppau.
8. HUNGARY	Buda, Pesth, and Presburg.
9. CROATIA AND SCLAVONIA	Agram.
10. AUSTRIAN SERVIA.....	Temesvar.
11. TRANSYLVANIA.....	Klausenburg.
12. GALICIA	Lemberg & Cracow
13. BUKOWINA.....	Tchernowitz.
14. THE MILITARY FRONTIER	Peterwardein and Brod.
15. VENETIA	Venice, Padua, and Verona.

The capital of the Austrian empire is Vienna.

The Austrian empire produces wine, corn, timber, maize, and salt.

It is also rich in copper, iron, coal, lead, zinc, quicksilver, and precious stones.

The valley of the Theiss in Hungary is famous for the production of the celebrated wine called Tokay.

The principal inhabitants of Hungary are called Magyars.

Austria is about five times as large as England, and has about twice the number of inhabitants.

CHAPTER XXII.

PRUSSIA.

The Kingdom of Prussia is situated to the north of Austria, and to the westward of Russia.

Prussia is a flat country, and has no mountains of importance.

The principal rivers are the Rhine, the Oder, the Elbe, and the Vistula.

Prussia is divided into three parts, which are separated from one another by different German states.

Eastern Prussia is subdivided into the six provinces named below—the first four are in Germany:—

PROVINCES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. POMERANIA	Stettin and Stargard.
2. SILESIA	Breslau and Oppeln.
3. BRANDENBURG	Berlin and Potsdam.
4. PRUSSIAN SAXONY.....	Magdeburg and Halle.
5. PRUSSIAN PROPER.....	Königsberg, Dantzic, and Memel.
6. POSEN	Posen and Bromberg.

Western Prussia is divided into—

1. Westphalia; chief towns—Münster and Minden.
2. The Rhine Province, including the country on both sides of the Rhine; of which the chief towns are Cologne, Aix-la-Chapelle, Coblenz, and Bonn.

These two provinces, as well as the small state of Hohenzollern—which forms Southern Prussia,—are all in Germany.

Prussia has lately taken the provinces of Schleswig and Holstein from Denmark, but they have not yet been annexed to the former kingdom.

CHAPTER XXIII.

GERMANY.

The Germanic Empire, or Confederation, consists of thirty five states—if we count the nine provinces of Austria and seven of Prussia as only two electoral divisions—and is bounded on the North by Denmark and the Baltic Sea ; on the East by parts of Prussia and Austria; on the South by Switzerland and Italy; and on the West by France and Belgium.

The Emperor of Austria is considered the head of the Empire of Germany ; and the Parliament, or Diet, meets at the free town called Frankfort-on-the-Maine, which is, therefore, often termed the capital of Germany.

The principal mountains in Germany are the Schwartz Wald, or the Black Forest ; the Wester Wald, or West Forest ; the Hartz Mountains ; and the mountains of Bohemia.

The chief rivers are the Danube, the Elbe, the *Oder*, the *Weser*, and the *Ems*.

Germany produces iron, lead, silver, gold (in small quantities), and quicksilver.

It is also famous for the wines made in the valleys of the Rhine and the Moselle—a river which falls into the Rhine at Coblenz. These wines are called, in England, Hock and Moselle.

The principal states in Germany and the chief towns are as follows, namely:—

STATES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. 9 PROVINCES IN AUSTRIA ...	Vienna.
2. 7 PROVINCES IN PRUSSIA.....	Berlin.
3. BAVARIA	Munich.
4. SAXONY	Dresden and Leipzig.
5. HANOVER	Hanover.
6. WURTEMBERG	Stuttgart.
7. BADEN	Carlsruhe and Baden-Baden.
8. DARMSTADT	Darmstadt.
9. HESSE CASSEL	Cassel.
10. HOLSTEIN AND LAUENBURG...	Gluckstadt.
11. MECKLENBURG.....	Schwerin.
12. NASSAU	Wiesbaden.
13. LUXEMBURG	Luxemburg.
14. OLDENBURG.....	Oldenburg.
15. BRUNSWICK	Brunswick.
16. Saxe WEIMAR	Weimar.
17. Saxe COBURG AND GOTHA...	Gotha.
18. Saxe MEININGEN	Meiningen.

And seventeen smaller divisions, including the Hanse Towns, viz., Bremen, Frankfort, Hamburg, and Lubeck.

CHAPTER XXIV.

HOLLAND.

The Kingdom of Holland—formerly called the Netherlands, or low countries—is bounded on the North and West by the North Sea ; on the South by Belgium ; and on the East by Germany.

There are no mountains in Holland, and the land is low, so that in many places it is below the level of the sea, which is only kept out by means of banks of earth called dykes.

The chief rivers in Holland are the Rhine, the Meuse, and the Scheldt,—all of which flow into the sea on its western shore.

The capital of Holland is called The Hague, but the principal city is Amsterdam, which is built upon ninety islands, in the south-west corner of the Zuyder Zee.

The other chief towns in Holland are Leyden, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Haarlem, and Bergen-op-Zoom.

The inhabitants of Holland are called the Dutch. They are very fond of trade, and possess colonies in the West Indies, and also in the Asiatic Archipelago.

Holland is about a quarter of the size of England, and has a population as large as that of Scotland.

CHAPTER XXV.

BELGIUM.

Belgium formed formerly part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, but became independent of it about thirty-five years back.*

It is bounded on the North by Holland ; on the South by France ; on the East by Germany ; and on the West by the North Sea.

Belgium is a flat country, and has no mountains of importance.

Its principal rivers are the Meuse and the Scheldt.

Belgium is rich in coal, iron, and other metals, and is noted for its iron goods, linen, and lace.

The inhabitants of Belgium were formerly called Flemings, from Flanders, one of its provinces, which once gave its name to the whole country.

The capital of Belgium is Brussels.

Its chief seaports are Antwerp and Ostend.

Its chief towns are Liege, Ghent, Bruges, Louvain. Namur, and Ramilies.

Belgium is divided into nine provinces.

The size of Belgium is rather larger than that of Wales, and its population is nearly four times as great.

CHAPTER XXVI.

DENMARK.

The Kingdom of Denmark has lately been much reduced in size through the loss of the provinces of Schleswig and Holstein, which were seized by Prussia and Austria about two years back.* It now consists of the province of Jutland, and several islands, the chief of which are Zealand, Funen, and Laaland.

There are neither mountains nor rivers of importance in Denmark.

The capital of Denmark is Copenhagen.

The chief towns are Helsingor, or Elsinore, and Lögstör.

The large island of Iceland, in the Atlantic Ocean, the Faroe Islands, and part of Greenland, belong to Denmark, besides the West India Islands, described in Chapter X.

Denmark is about twice the size of Wales, and has a population equal to about half the inhabitants of Scotland.

CHAPTER XXVII.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.

The two countries of Sweden and Norway now form one kingdom, which is bounded on the North by the Arctic Ocean; on the South by the Skager

* A.D. 1864.

Rack and Cattegat ; on the East by Russia, the Gulf of Bothnia, and the Baltic Sea ; and on the West by the Atlantic Ocean.

The chief islands are the Lofoden Isles, in the north, near one of which the famous whirlpool called Mælstrom is situated ; and the Oland Isle, and Gotland Island, in the Baltic.

The principal mountains in Sweden and Norway are the Scandinavian Mountains, consisting of a long chain of mountains running the whole length of the peninsula from north to south. This chain separates Sweden from Norway, and most of the summits are covered with snow.

The chief rivers are,—the Dal and Klar—rivers in Sweden, and the river Glommen, in Norway.

The principal lakes are Lakes Wener and Wetter, in Sweden, which are joined together by a canal.

The capital of the kingdom is Stockholm.

The chief towns are :—Christiania, Bergen, Gottenburg, Carlskrona, Trontheim, and Christiansund.

Sweden and Norway are rich in silver, copper, and iron, and they abound with timber, game, and fish.

The size of Sweden and Norway is three times as great as that of Great Britain ; but they have only about a quarter of the population of that island.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.

The Russian Empire is twice as large as Europe, and is divided into Russia in Europe, and Russia in Asia, or Siberia.

Russia is bounded on the North by the Arctic Ocean; on the South by the Black Sea, Persia, Turkestan, and the Chinese Empire; on the East by the O'Khotsk Sea and Kamtschatka Sea; and on the West by Austria, Prussia, the Gulf of Bothnia, and Sweden.

Russia also possesses a wild tract of land, at the north-west corner of North America.

Russia is a very level country on the whole; its chief mountains are the Oural Mountains and the Caucasus.

The principal rivers in Russia are the Onega, the Dvina, the Mezen, the Petchora, the Obi, and the River Lena, all of which fall into the Arctic Ocean; the Dvina and the Niemen, which flow into the Baltic; the Dneister, the Bug, and the Dneiper, which fall into the Black Sea; the Don, which runs into the Sea of Azov; and the Rivers Oural and Volga, which flow into the Caspian Sea.

The chief lakes of Russia are Lake Ladoga, Lake Onega, and Lake Enara, in Europe; and Lake Balkach, or Tengliz, and Lake Baikal, in Asia.

St. Petersburg is the capital of the empire, and *is built at the mouth of the River Neva.*

The chief trading ports of Russia, besides St. Petersburg, are Archangel, on the White Sea ; Riga, on the Baltic ; Odessa and Sebastopol, on the Black Sea ; Astrakhan, on the Caspian Sea ; and Taganrog, on the Sea of Azov.

The chief naval ports are Cronstadt and Sveaborg, in the Gulf of Finland.

The chief towns in Russia in Europe, besides the above, are Moscow, the old capital ; Warsaw, once the capital of Poland ; Kiev, Toulá, Kherson Vilna, and Nijnii Novgorod, to the east of Moscow, famous for its fairs.

In Asia the chief towns are Tobolsk, Omsk, and Tomsk, on two streams which flow into the River Obi ; Irkutsk, on Lake Baikal ; and Iakoutsk, on the River Lena.

Gold, copper, and other metals, coal, and precious stones, are found in the Russian Empire. It is also noted for leather, and sable, and other furs.

It exports timber, corn, hemp, flax, hides, and tallow.

The Russian Empire contains nearly a seventh part of the whole land of the globe, but its population is not large, that of Russia in Europe being about double the population of the British Isles, while that of Russia in Asia is supposed not to be greater than half the number of inhabitants belonging to Great Britain and Ireland.

CHAPTER XXIX.

GREECE.

The Kingdom of Greece is situated to the south of Turkey in Europe, and may be divided into three parts, namely:—

1. Northern Greece.
2. The Morea or Peloponnesus.
3. The Greek Islands.

Northern Greece is divided from Turkey by a chain of mountains called the Otheys, and contains the following towns of importance, viz.:—Athens, the capital of the kingdom; and Piræus, its seaport; Thebes; Nepakto, or Lepanto; and Mesolonghi.

The Morea is situated to the southward, and is joined to North Greece by the Isthmus of Corinth. It is shaped like a vine-leaf, and is famous for currants.

The chief towns in the Morea are Corinth, Tripolitza, and Patras.

Navarino is a seaport near the south-western corner of the Morea, and is famous for the Battle of Navarino, which ended in the destruction of the Turkish Fleet—1827.

The chief islands of Greece are Negropont or Egripo, Andros, Skyro, Naxia, Egina, Paro (*famous* for its marble), Milo, and other islands in

the Cyclades group; and lastly, the Ionian Islands—formerly under the protection of England—of which the chief are Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Santa Maura, Cerigo, Ithaca, and Paxo.

The chief exports of Greece are dried currants and olive-oil.

Greece is about the same size as Wales, and has a rather larger population.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

The Empire of Turkey is divided into Turkey in Europe, Turkey in Asia, and Turkey in Africa.

It is bounded on the North by Austria and the Black Sea; on the South by the Great African Desert and part of Arabia; on the East by the Persian Gulf and Persia; and on the West by Algiers, the Mediterranean Levant, and the Adriatic Sea.

The chief rivers in Turkey in Europe are the Danube, which falls into the Black Sea; and the Maritza, the Varda, and the Karason, which flow into the Greek Archipelago.

In Asia the principal rivers are the Euphrates and the Tigris, which fall into the Persian Gulf.

And, in Africa, the Nile is the only river of importance.

The chief mountains in Europe are the Pindus

range, running from north to south, and the Balkan chain, which runs from east to west.

In Asia the chief mountains of Turkey are the Taurus Mountains in Asia Minor, or Northern Syria, and the chains of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon in Palestine.

The chief islands of Turkey are Crete or Candia, Cyprus, Rhodes, Kos, Scarpanto, Samos, Mitilini, Khio, Lemnos, Samothraki, Imbro, and Thasos.

There are two famous straits in Turkey, namely the Dardanelles, (the entrance to the Sea of Marmora,) and the Bosphorus, or Channel of Constantinople, between the Sea of Marmora and the Black Sea.

The capital of the Turkish Empire is Constantinople, formerly the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire.

Turkey in Europe is divided into the following provinces, namely :—

PROVINCES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. ROUMELIA, including } Thessaly.	Constantinople, Adrianople, and Saloniki.
2. BULGARIA	Sophia and Varna.
3. ALBANIA	Scutari.
4. BOSNIA	Bosnaserai.
5. SERVIA	Belgrade.
6. WALLACHIA	Bucharest.
7. MOLDAVIA	Galatz and Jassy.

The last three provinces belong to Turkey, but *hardly more than in name.*

Turkey in Asia includes all the countries anciently called Asia Minor,—Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia, half of Armenia and half of Arabia. But the power of the Sultan, as the ruler of the Turkish Empire is called, is hardly more than nominal in Arabia and in some other parts.

Turkey in Asia is divided into the following provinces, namely :—

PROVINCES.	CHIEF TOWNS.
1. ANATOLIA	{ Smyrna and Scutari, a suburb of Constantinople.
2. SIVAS	Trebizond and Tireboli.
3. ARMENIA	Erzroum and Moush.
4. KARAMAN	Marash.
5. SHAM, OR SYRIA, including Palestine, or the Holy Land. }	Damascus, Beyrout, Aleppo, Jerusalem, Saida or Tyre, Acre, and Gaza.
6. EL JEZIREH, OR MESOPOTAMIA .	Bagdad and Mosul.

Turkey exports coffee, dates, figs, sponges, and medicinal drugs.

The Turkish Empire in Africa includes Egypt, Tripoli, Fezzan, and Tunis ; but the Sultan's power is very small, indeed, in all these states.

Egypt is one of the most fertile countries in the world, and is situated on both sides of the famous river Nile, for a distance of about five hundred miles from its mouth, or delta, as it is called.

The chief towns in Egypt are Cairo, Alexandria, and Suez.

Egypt is famous for the pyramids, and its rail-

way between Alexandria and Suez forms an important part of the "Overland Route" to India.

Tripoli—capital, Tripoli—is situated to the westward of Egypt, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Fezzan is situated to the south of Tripoli, and is merely an oasis (or fertile spot) in the Great Desert of Africa; its capital is Mourzouk.

Tunis—chief town, Tunis—is situated on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, between Tripoli and the French colony of Algiers, and contains a great many Jews.

The Turkish Empire is nearly seven times as large as France, but it only contains about the same number of inhabitants.

THE END.

